

RECYCLING AND REFUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2013

Members: John Root, Chair; Susan Morrello, Cristina Cox Fernandes, Laurel Dickey, Brenda Davies, Arnold Alper, and Craig Goff

School compost coaching at the Town's three elementary schools with Committee members serving as volunteer coaches took place during the first two weeks of the school year.

The Committee organized and staffed a recycling presence at the Sustainability Festival on April 27.

The Committee endorsed a proposal by Amend Organics to institute a six-month pilot program for composting food waste at the transfer station with biodegradable pay-as-you-throw bags provided for participants and daily emptying of wheeled totes.

A Zero Waste "summit meeting" at Amherst College was held on September 19, 2012. Three key goals (downtown recycling, transfer Station/Solid Waste Enterprise Fund viability, and composting) were proposed, and working groups were formed to focus on each of these goals.

Amherst Town Meeting passed a ban on the use of foam products (expanded polystyrene) on November 19, 2012, prohibiting food establishments and Town facility users from dispensing prepared foods to customers in disposable food service containers made from expanded polystyrene (EPS commonly referred to as Styrofoam®), effective January 1, 2014. The bylaw was proposed by the RRMC in collaboration with The Amherst League of Women Voters and The Hitchcock Center for the Environment.